# Tomorrow's Table

## Organic Farming, Genetics, and the Future of Food

Pamela C. RONALD & Raoul W. ADAMCHAK

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In modern agricultural politics, organic farming and genetically engineered plants occupy opposite ends of the spectrum. Yet they need not be antagonistic, according to University of California geneticist Pamela C. Ronald and her husband Raoul W. Adamchak, an organic farmer. Rather, the authors argue, a judicious incorporation of the two can help ensure environmentally sustainable food production in the future.

*Tomorrow's Table* chronicles roughly a year in the life of the Ronald-Adamchak household. Ronald and Adamchak guide us through their day-to-day lives, giving us a taste of what organic farmers and geneticists actually do. They discuss the contents of their own largely organic pantry, what they choose to feed their children, and what their criteria are for inputs for a sustainable agriculture.

Speaking from uniquely complementary perspectives, the authors help distinguish between fact and fiction in the debate about the use of organic practices and genetically engineered (GE) plants in sustainable farming and in feeding an expanding human population. Through dialogue with experts, friends, and family, Ronald and Adamchak thoughtfully explore today's use of organic farming and GE plants and the concerns expressed by critics and consumers.

This book – part memoir, part instruction, part contemplation – is for those who wish to know more about how the food they eat is grown, whether organic or genetically engineered. It is for every shopper who has at one time or another wondered what labels such as "organic" or "GE-free" really mean for the health of their families and for the future of the planet.

is Professor of Plant Pathology and Chair of the Plant Genomics Program at the University of California, Davis.

has grown organic crops for twenty years. He currently works at the University of California, Davis, as the manager of the certified organic Market Garden at the Student Farm.

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"This book is a tale of two marriages. The first is that of Raoul and Pam, the authors, and is a tale of the passions of an organic farmer and a plant genetic scientist. The second is the potential marriage of two technologies—organic agriculture and genetic engineering. . . . Like all good marriages, both include shared values, lively tensions, and reinvigorating complementarities. [The authors] share a strong sense of both the wonder of the natural world and how, if treated with respect and carefully managed, it can remain a source of inspiration and provision of our daily needs."

—, KCMG FRS, Professor of International Development, Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College, London, and past President of the Rockefeller Foundation, from the foreword

"Here's a persuasive case that, far from contradictory, the merging of genetic engineering and organic farming offers our best shot at truly sustainable agriculture. I've seen no better introduction to the ground truth of genetically engineered crops and the promising directions this 'appropriate technology' is heading."

—, creator of the Whole Earth Catalog

"Whether you ultimately agree with it or not, *Tomorrow's Table* brings a fresh approach to the debate over transgenic crops."

—, author of *In Defense of Food* and *The Omnivore's Dilemma*

"For a future that will bring unprecedented challenges we will need all the tools we can muster. *Tomorrow's Table* shows how organic and biotech can coexist and complement one another. Bravo, and bring on Volume 2."

—, President, PromotheusAll

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